Claims

1. A method of making a package (5) comprising a mineral wool product (1) substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil (25), characterised by

bringing about a dimensional reduction of said mineral wool product (1) by mechanically compressing said mineral wool product (1) in a first direction using mechanical compressing means (30) and

evacuating said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said foil (25).

2. A method according to the preceding claim, said evacuation of said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said foil (25) being selected to maintain, or essentially maintain, said dimensional reduction.

3. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein said mineral wool product (1) is enclosed by said foil (25) after said mechanical compression, said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said foil (25) being then evacuated.

4. A method according to any of claims 1 or 2, wherein said mineral wool product (1) is enclosed by said foil (25) before said mechanical compression, said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said foil (25) being then evacuated.

5. A method according to any of claims 1 or 2, wherein said mineral wool product (1) is enclosed by said foil (25) during said mechanical compression, said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said foil (25) being then evacuated.

6. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein said evacuation is performed while essentially maintaining said dimensional reduction.

7. A method according to the preceding claim wherein the mechanical compression provided by said compressing means (30) is released while performing said evacuation.

8. A method according to any of the preceding claims, said mineral wool product (1) having substantially parallel opposed surfaces (1') defining before said compression a dimension (T) of said mineral wool product (1), said mechanical compressing means (30) applying a uniform or essentially uniform pressure against said opposed surfaces (1').

9. A method according to the preceding claim wherein the pressure within said package (5) comprising said mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said foil (25) is balanced with the pressure on said surfaces (1') required to obtain said dimensional reduction (T-t).

10. A method according to the preceding claim wherein said mechanical compressing means (30) includes a flat surface (30') press applied flatly against at least one of said opposed surfaces (1') and displaced to provide said dimensional reduction (T-t).

11. A method according to any of the preceding claims, the dimensional reduction being at most 70%, preferably no more than 60%.

12. An apparatus (A) for making a package (5) comprising a mineral wool product (1) substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil (25), characterised by

mechanical compressing means (30) adapted for receiving said mineral wool product (1) and for compressing said mineral wool product (1) in a first direction to bring about a dimensional reduction thereof,

wrapping means (W) for enclosing said mineral wool product (1) with a web of a substantially air-tight foil (25),

evacuating means (40) for evacuating said mineral wool product enclosed by said foil.

13. An apparatus according to the preceding claim, said wrapping means (W) being operable to wrap said foil (25) around said mineral wool product (1) before activation of said mechanical compressing means (30) to bring about said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means (W) comprising sealing means (17, 18) operable to seal said foil (25) after said wrapping, said evacuating means (40) being operable to evacuate said mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said sealed foil (25).

14. An apparatus according to the preceding claim, including conveyor means (8, 9, 12", 14) for conveying said mineral wool product (1) along a path, said wrapping means (W) including a supply (15) of said web and receiving means (20) for receiving an end of said web, said web being extendable between said supply (25) and said receiving means (20) across said path to receive said mineral wool product (1) in a receiving area (R), said compressing means (30) being arranged downstream of said receiving area (R).

15. An apparatus according to claim 12, said wrapping means (W) being operable to wrap said web around said mineral wool product (1) after activation of said mechanical compressing means (30) to bring about said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means (W) comprising sealing means (17, 18) op-

erable to seal said foil (25) after said wrapping, said evacuating means (40) being operable to evacuate said mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said sealed foil (25).

16. An apparatus according to the preceding claim, including conveyor means for conveying said mineral wool product (1) along a path, said wrapping means (W) including a supply (15) of said web and receiving means (20) for receiving an end of said web, said web being extendable between said supply (15) and said receiving means (20) across said path to receive said mineral wool product (1) in a receiving area (R), said compressing means (30) being arranged upstream of said receiving area (R).

17. An apparatus according to any the preceding claims 12-16, said evacuation means (40) including surfaces (12', 12") for maintaining said dimensional reduction during said evacuation.

18. An apparatus according to any of the preceding claims 12-17, said compressing means including a flat surface (30') displaceable press (30).

19. An apparatus according to claim 12, said wrapping means (W) being operable to wrap said web around said mineral wool product (1) during activation of said mechanical compressing means (30) to bring about said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means (W) comprising sealing means (17, 18) operable to seal said foil (25) after said wrapping, said evacuating means (40) being operable to evacuate said mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said sealed foil (25).

20. An apparatus according to the preceding claim, said mechanical compressing means (30) including first and second opposed conveyor means (9', 9") for conveying said mineral wool product (1) along a path and defining there between a passage of decreasing width for obtaining said dimensional

reduction, said wrapping means (W) including a supply (15) of said web and receiving means (20) for receiving an end of said web, said web being extendable between said supply (15) and said receiving means across said path to receive said mineral wool product (1) in a receiving area, said compressing means (30) being arranged downstream of said receiving area.

21. A package (5) comprising a stack of mineral wool boards substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil (25), said stack having been dimensionally reduced by mechanical compression and said package having been evacuated with said foil (25) essentially maintaining said evacuated state, the natural tendency of the stack to reassume its original dimension being balanced by the sub-atmospheric pressure within said package (5).